

# THE OLD STONE WALL

E-Newsletter of the NH Division of Historical Resources

Vd. 9 Issue 2



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**Welcome to the Van McLeod Building!**



*Gov. Chris Sununu signs the bill making 19 Pillsbury Street the "Van McLeod Building"  
[left-right: State Librarian Michael York, State Senator Dan Feltes, State Minority Leader Steve Shurtleff, daughter Chelsea McLeod, wife Joan Goshgarian, Gov. Sununu.]*

On July 18, our building at 19 Pillsbury Street got even more personality when Gov. Chris Sununu signed a bill renaming it the "Van McLeod Building."

Van McLeod served as Commissioner of the N.H. Department of Cultural Resources for 24 years, leading the department and its four divisions: the Division of Historical Resources, State Library, Arts Council and Division of Film and Digital Media. He understood how important cultural resources are to our state's identity and the profound impact they have on our economy and our quality of life.

A tireless promoter, Commissioner McLeod knew the importance of "telling the story" of New Hampshire, of our culture, our organizations and our people. He knew that stories are how people connect, and that strength and success will come from that.

Commissioner McLeod's energy was matched only by his ability to bring people together. As well known for his humor and compassion as he was for his devotion to supporting culture statewide, he was a great guy, universally liked and respected.

Commissioner McLeod was born at 19 Pillsbury Street when it served as the maternity annex for Margaret Pillsbury General Hospital. Built in 1927, it is the last remaining structure from the MPGH complex and was named to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places in 2014. Today, the NHDHR, Arts Council and Film & Digital Media are located there.

"Like you, we miss Van," said NHDHR Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Elizabeth Muzzey at the event. "I know that I speak for everyone at 19 Pillsbury Street when I say that we are honored to work in the building that will now

bear his name."

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## Department of Cultural Resources expands, becomes Department of Natural & Cultural Resources

As of July 1, 2017 and the adoption of the New Hampshire's state budget for 2018-2019, the four divisions of the Department of Cultural Resources - the [Division of Historical Resources](#), the [State Library](#), the [State Council on the Arts](#) and the [Division of Film and Digital Media](#) - have combined with the [Division of Parks & Recreation](#) and [Division of Forest & Lands](#) (both formerly divisions of the Department of Resources and Economic Development) to form the **Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**.

"The Department of Cultural Resources has worked closely with Division of Parks & Recreation and Division of Forests & Lands on a variety of projects over the years," said Jeffrey Rose, commissioner of Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. "By combining the distinctive assets of the six divisions into one agency, we will be able to offer even greater synergies for protecting and managing the state's extraordinary resources for our residents and visitors."



*NHDHR staff gathered for a portrait at the Van McLeod Building.*

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## Downtown Portsmouth Historic District named to the National Register of Historic Places





*Market Square in Portsmouth, looking south down Pleasant St.*

Portsmouth is one of New Hampshire's oldest communities, but it took until 2017 for its downtown to be named to the National Register of Historic Places!

What is now downtown Portsmouth began when European colonists, sailing on the *Pied Cow*, established a colony at Strawberry Banke in 1630. As New Hampshire's only port, it became a center for maritime-related industries and trade. The downtown expanded throughout the 19th century as the city diversified and factories, commerce and neighborhoods developed west of the downtown core.

The 1,278 resources that contribute to the National Register listing include commercial, residential and civic buildings, as well as places of worship, parks and playgrounds, cemeteries, carriage houses, monuments and archaeological sites.

While many commercial buildings are part of large, multi-story brick blocks, the architectural styles of residences range widely, including Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne and contemporary. Several large Federal and Georgian houses within the district, now historic house museums, have Colonial Revival-era gardens.

In New Hampshire, listing to the National Register makes applicable property owners eligible for grants such as the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program or LCHIP ([lchip.org](http://lchip.org)) and the Conservation License Plate Program ([nh.gov/nhdhr/grants/moose](http://nh.gov/nhdhr/grants/moose)).

For more information on the National Register program in New Hampshire, please visit [nh.gov/nhdhr](http://nh.gov/nhdhr) and click on "Programs" or contact Peter Michaud at the NHDHR, 603-271-3583.

## Megan Rupnik joins the NHDHR

The NHDHR added yet another talented person to our staff when Megan Rupnik joined us in July as our new State Survey Coordinator. Megan brings to the table a powerful combination of education and experience; with degrees in historic preservation from Goucher College and Cornell University, she most recently served as Survey and National Register Manager at Ohio's State Historic Preservation Office.



*Megan on a site visit at Castle in the Clouds*

"Historic Preservation combines my love of both history and architecture," said Megan. "My husband and I are looking forward to exploring all New Hampshire has to offer."



*Young Ingalls Memorial Library patrons rally around the State Register sign*

## Ingalls Memorial Library's State Register of Historic Places celebration

On June 13 - Ingalls Memorial Library's 122nd birthday - Rindge community members came together to celebrate by unveiling their library's official New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places marker.

The event included young patrons singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee," comments from a descendant of founder Thomas Ingalls and refreshments. We are always pleased to see the pride that people show when a property receives special historic designation, and this event stood out for the

range of ages involved.

Since it was first opened in 1894, Ingalls Memorial Library has been the only dedicated public library in Rindge; it was predicted to "prove an inestimable benefit to the town" at its dedication. An excellent example of Romanesque architecture, the library was funded in memory of Thomas Ingalls, son of a Revolutionary War soldier and himself a prominent citizen of Rindge.

Anyone wishing to nominate a property to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places must research the history of the nominated property and document it fully on an individual inventory form from the NHDHR. Having a property listed in the

## SCRAP field schools to jump forward several centuries soon



*Artifacts discovered at Jefferson VI in 2017 (left) and Livermore Falls in 2016 (right)*

SCRAP's 2017 summer archaeology field school sessions at a Paleoindian site in the North Country are about to wrap up; two two-week sessions at a 17th-19th century mill community begin soon.

This is the seventh year that field schools have taken place in Jefferson. Throughout the years, finds in six sites have included a flake knife with bear protein, two conjoining fragments of a specialized butchering tool and a concentration of many tools, representing a household encampment.

The first Livermore Falls field school took place last year and focused on survey of areas where industrial activities and milling took place. This year's excavation will focus on the remains of one of the village's residential dwellings, with the goal of learning more about life in the Hollow.

**There are still limited spaces available for the Livermore Falls field school. Sessions take place Aug. 7-18 and Aug. 21-Sept. 1. Fieldwork is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays.**

Coordinated through the NHDHR's [New Hampshire State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program \(SCRAP\)](http://nh.gov/nhdhr/SCRAP), both field schools conform to archaeology standards set by the National Park Service.

Participants receive hands-on instruction in data recovery techniques, artifact identification and excavation documentation. Although most SCRAP field school participants are volunteers, graduate and undergraduate credit through Plymouth State University is available. Volunteers receive the same instruction as credit students.

There is no fee to participate as a volunteer; however, a \$40 donation to defray the cost of supplies and instructional materials is suggested.

Advance registration for SCRAP field schools is required. For more information and to register, visit [nh.gov/nhdhr/SCRAP.htm](http://nh.gov/nhdhr/SCRAP.htm) and click on "Upcoming Events &



## UPDATE: Certified Local Government grants

Certified Local Governments in New Hampshire continue to lead the way with inspirational programs that help support historic preservation in their communities.

Created by the 1980 amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act, the CLG program requires the NHDHR to designate at least 10 percent of its annual federal Historic Preservation Funds to support municipalities that have become CLGs. In addition to being eligible for preservation grants, other benefits of being a CLG include special training opportunities, participation in the National Register nomination process, and receiving technical assistance from the NHDHR on a variety of preservation topics, such as identifying historic properties, historical resource chapters for master plans, and local historic district and heritage commission concerns.

Here's what's happening with New Hampshire CLGs:

- **Amherst:** bringing CAMP (Commission Assistance Mentoring Program by the National Association of Preservation Commissions) training to its commissions.
- **Goffstown:** creating design guidelines for its historic districts
- **Keene:** presenting a series of public workshops:
  1. How to Research Your House History
  2. An Overview History of Keene and Its Architecture
  3. Caring for your Historic Home
- **Kingston:** preparing a historic resources chapter for its master plan update
- **Lebanon:** surveying its historic mill sites
- **Rochester:** creating design guidelines for its historic district

A municipality wishing to become a CLG must fulfill certain requirements indicating its commitment to local preservation, including establishing either a historic district commission or a heritage commission with historic district responsibilities.

For more information about the Certified Local Government program in New Hampshire, visit [nh.gov/nhdhr](http://nh.gov/nhdhr) and click on "Programs" or contact Nadine Miller at the NHDHR, 603-271-6628.

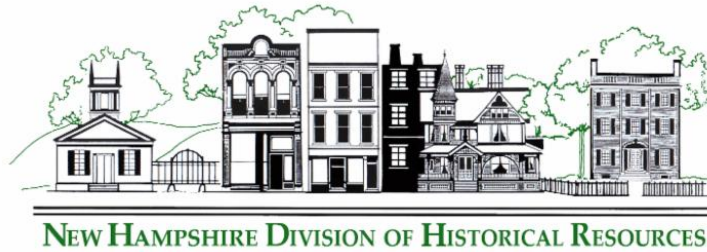
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## Stay involved in historic preservation

Between issues of **The Old Stone Wall**, you can remain active in New Hampshire's preservation community. Good places to start are your local community's historic and preservation organizations, the [NH History Network](#) and the [NH Preservation Alliance website](#).

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*The lead photo for this edition of "The Old Stone Wall" is of the Mount St. Mary's Building in Hooksett and was submitted to ["My New Hampshire"](#) by Kathie Northrup.*



*Working together to preserve and celebrate New Hampshire's irreplaceable historic resources through education, stewardship and protection.*

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YouTube: [NH Division of Historical Resources](#)

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